



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1 - NEW ENGLAND
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912**

October 25, 2012

Karen A. Vilandry
Vice President
Hands Across the River Coalition
34 Huttleston Ave.
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Re: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site—October 10, 2012 Letter to EPA
Administrator Lisa P. Jackson

Dear Ms. Vilandry:

EPA Region 1 is writing in response to your letter to EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, dated October 10, 2012, regarding the governments' settlement with AVX Corp. that was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts on that same day. This settlement is subject to a 30-day public comment period, which began on October 17, 2012. EPA appreciates your comment. While your letter was submitted before the public comment period, we have forwarded a copy to the U.S. Department of Justice, and it will be considered along with other comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period.

EPA has posted on the New Bedford Harbor Site's webpage (<http://www.epa.gov/nbh/>) two sets of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers about the settlement and the cleanup, which I am enclosing with this letter. I hope that these FAQs provide useful information.

Finally, you mentioned a few other issues in your October 10, 2012 letter that I would like to address. I want to clarify that neither EPA nor the U.S. Department of Justice held or participated in any press conference regarding this settlement. Regarding settlement discussions with AVX, the fact that settlement discussions have taken place is not confidential, but the contents of these discussions are confidential and subject to a mediation agreement.

Please contact Kelsey O'Neil, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 617-918-1003 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Man Chak Ng".

Man Chak Ng
Senior Enforcement Counsel

Enclosures

cc (via email): Curt Spalding, Regional Administrator